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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Padigaru et al  
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/800,321 EXAMINER: Misook Yu  
FILING DATE: March 5, 2001 ART UNIT: 1642  
FOR: NOVEL PROTEINS AND NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING SAME

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This amendment and response is being filed in connection with a Request for Continuing Examination ("RCE") filed herewith under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 dependent from USSN 09/800,321 filed March 5, 2001. This amendment is in response to the July 3, 2003 Office Action in USSN 09/800,321. Applicants have filed an Extension of Time allowing response up to and including January 3, 2004, which is a Saturday. Therefore this filing of January 5, 2004 is timely filed.

**AMENDMENTS**

**Amendments to the claims** are shown in the listing of claims on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** are shown beginning on page 3 of this paper.